



Forecast checked.
Boots on. Let's go.

Paisley.is is the destination brand for
Paisley and Renfrewshire.

Visit us online for what's on in the area,
ideas for your visit and stories from our
people and places.

www.paisley.is



Paisley Calling

A visitors guide to
Paisley and Renfrewshire

Paisley

Renfrewshire has it all, we're just waiting for you to jump in.

Whether you want to get outdoors for a mindful escape—or looking to enjoy a bit of leisure time with family and friends—we've got something for you.

Come with us and discover an area with fascinating history and heritage, shaped by artists, kings, monks, poets and radicals.

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→ Look out for the QR codes throughout this guide, and scan them for more information and inspiration.



→ Festive fun



→ Sma' Shot Day, Paisley



→ Paisley Halloween Festival



→ Paisley Food and Drink Festival



→ Paisley Halloween Festival

Award Winning Events

From the spectacular Paisley Halloween Festival and the delicious Paisley Food and Drink Festival to pipe band competitions, local celebrations, gala days, concerts, sporting competitions and festive fun—Renfrewshire has an exciting selection of live events for you to enjoy.

Check out www.paisley.is for an up-to-date list of what's on during your visit.



→ You dancing?



→ Renfrew Pipe Band Competition



→ Barshaw Park, Paisley

Scan to see what's on while you're here





→ Barshaw Park, Paisley



→ Finlaystone Country Estate



Family Days Out

→ RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve



→ Fountain Gardens Park, Paisley



→ RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve



→ Finlaystone Country Estate

Scan for more Family Days Out



Great spots for some family fun:

- Barshaw Park, Paisley
- Robertson Park, Renfrew
- RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve
- Pandamonium Soft Play, Erskine
- Big Adventure Soft Play, Linwood
- Barnhill Farm
- Castle Semple Country Park

Ready. Set. Play.

Renfrewshire is where it's at for great family days out that won't break the bank.

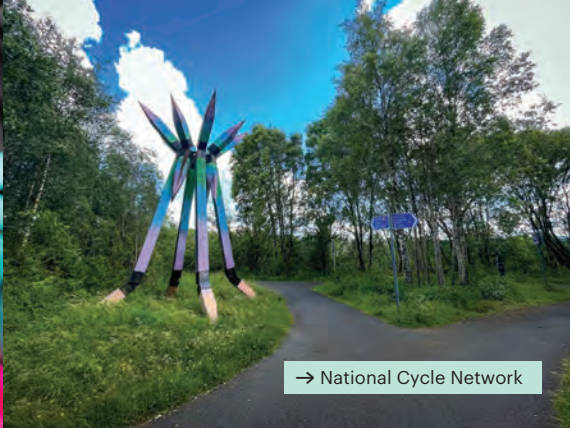
We've got festivals, gala days, play parks and soft-plays. Plus, farm parks, country estates and nature reserves. And, with a vibrant live event calendar throughout the year, the wee ones will have plenty to keep them entertained.

Kids will love scrambling up to the top of an ancient volcano at Windy Hill, picking your own juicy strawberries at East Yonderton Farm or swinging through the trees at Finlaystone Country Estate.

Or head to one of our many outdoor spaces and fly kites, spot highland coos, visit waterfalls, cycle new paths, and make some fantastic family memories. Just don't forget to pack a coat, it wouldn't be a Scottish adventure without a spot of rain, would it?



→ Castle Semple Country Park



→ National Cycle Network



→ RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve

Peaceful places to get close to nature:

RSPB Lochwinnoch

Gleniffer Braes Country Park

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park

Barshaw Park, Paisley

Bluebell and Rannoch Woods, Johnstone

Windy Hill Volcano, Lochwinnoch



→ Parkhill Woods, Castle Semple

Forecast checked. Boots on. Let's go.

Paisley and Renfrewshire's truly great outdoors couldn't be easier to explore.

Easy Outdoors is all about getting out of the house and into nature without any stress or hassle. It's easy walks with accessible parking. Stunning viewpoints within a few minutes wander. Or short bike rides with pub stops and café breaks. It's about the outdoors being for you, no matter your age or ability.

Why not try exploring one of our many open spaces?

The Gleniffer Braes Country Park has one of the best views in the entire Clyde Valley. Situated just to the south of Paisley and Johnstone, the 'Braes' has a vast network of trails, from magical woodlands to open grassland where highland coos roam.

Head down to Lochwinnoch and explore Castle Semple Country Park. This loch-shore delight is mixture of woodlands, wetlands, open water and accessible trails. Part of Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Castle Semple is a wonderland of easy outdoors activities.

We've also got a great range of urban parks and woodlands for you to explore. Paisley's Barshaw Park, and Renfrew's Robertson Park, are two modern parks with a great range of facilities and attractions.

For more of an escape, visit Bluebell and Rannoch Woods in Johnstone, where the trails meander through ancient trees, and roe deer can be spotted grazing.

Or for incredible views, and peaceful isolation, head up to Windy Hill in Clyde Muirshiel Regional park and explore our favourite ancient volcano.



Scan for more outdoor ideas

Head out your door. Leave the car at home. Go someplace different.

Microadventures are short, simple, cheap and fun.

They're about shifting your perspective and finding a new way to experience the places around you. Microadventures are about exploring spaces in new ways, at whatever level you feel comfortable. Whatever your ability, we think microadventures have something for everyone.

We're spoilt for outdoor choices in Renfrewshire. With well connected travel links, it's not hard to leave urban spaces behind and find yourself in wild woodlands or open moorland.

We have a ton of ideas to inspire you, from overnight bikepacking and 5-9 adventures to trig-bagging and horizon spotting.

Check out the list online.



→ River Clyde walkway, Renfrew



→ River Calder, Clyde Muirshiel



→ Castle Semple



→ National Cycle Network



→ Clyde Muirshiel

Scan for inspiring
Microadventures



Up for a challenge?

Hill of Stake is the highest summit in the area. At 522m it's not a munro, but the views from the top are exceptional, with the Firth of Clyde, Arran and Ben Lomond all visible on a good day. It's a wild hill, and its remoteness makes it a real adventure.

Get out for a run

Renfrewshire is great for running. From short sprints to long days out, we've got a lot to offer. For road runners, the architecture of Paisley is a great distraction from your aching muscles. And if trail running is your thing, the Gleniffer Braes is a wonderland of forest singletrack and grassland trails.

Adventure is only
a state of mind.



→ Wallace Memorial Window, Paisley Abbey



→ Paisley Abbey

© Will Scott



→ Wallace Memorial, Elderslie

Four Paisley Architects

Iconic buildings adorn Paisley's skyline. You just have to look up to see the legacy of Paisley's time at the centre of the global textile trade.

Paisley has been home to several significant architects, but four men have contributed more to the architectural legacy of the town than any others. James Donald (1852-1917), Thomas Graham Abercrombie (1862-1926), William Daniel McLennan (1872-1940) and James Steel Maitland (1887-1982).

Our architectural trail is your guide to these four men and the remarkable buildings they created.



→ Dykebar Hospital



→ Woodside Crematorium

Scan to open up Paisley's buildings



Scan to discover the route



Tour Spotlight: Wallace Begins

Immerse yourself in the story of William Wallace with this one-day adventure around Scotland's historical heartland. Get to know our most famous Scottish Hero on this self-led tour.

Starting at Wallace's birthplace in Elderslie, you'll journey across Scotland visiting key moments in his life. From his education with the monks at Paisley Abbey, through to his iconic battlefields in Stirling, and finishing with his imprisonment in Dumbarton.

→ National Wallace Monument, Stirling



→ UWS, 42 George Street



→ Paisley North Church



Paisley First
Business Improvement District

→ Kingfisher by Mark Worst

Mural Trail

Paisley's creative roots run deep, and the town is known for its thriving community of makers, creatives and artists. But you might not have expected some much incredible street art.

The Paisley First Business Improvement District have commissioned several stunning pieces around the town centre.

One not to miss is the 16ft tall kingfisher, a striking celebration of Paisley's architecture and link to Alexander Wilson, the father of American ornithology, who was born in Paisley.

Wander around the town and see which ones you can find or check out our interactive map.



→ Tribute to Gerry Rafferty

Scan for the Paisley First Mural Trail



Our Towns and Villages

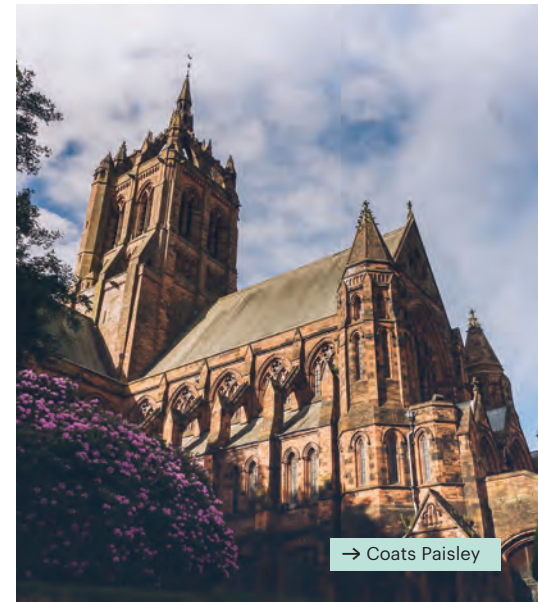
Want to get to know Renfrewshire? Here's a guide to each of our towns and villages, with recommendations from locals.

Paisley

Home of the world-famous Paisley Pattern, Renfrewshire's largest town is a place of makers, radicals, secrets and fascinating stories.

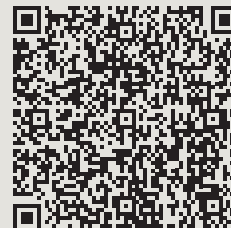
Known for: World class architecture, including the 12th century Paisley Abbey which features a gargoyle inspired by the 2001 film Alien.

Local favourite: The top of Saucel Hill Park, a 360° view of Paisley and the surrounding area, only a few minutes walk from the town centre.



→ Coats Paisley

Scan to explore our places



→ White Cart Water and Paisley Town Hall



→ Rannoch Woods



→ Johnstone High Parish Church

© Will Scott

Johnstone

With its own story inextricably linked to the rise and fall of cotton thread in Renfrewshire, Johnstone is a fascinating place to visit. And with two train stations, it's easy to explore.

Known for: At one time Johnstone was home to one of Scotland's largest cotton mills. Now the town has a range of restaurants and pubs, and sits on National Cycle Route 75.

Local favourite: Bangin' Pizza—it's exactly as it sounds, amazing pizzas and friendly staff.

Renfrew

This historic county town and 'Cradle of the Stewarts' is home to award winning food, great bars and pubs and a lively event scene.

Known for: The stunning A-listed mid-Victorian Renfrew Town Hall which is often referred to as the 'Disney Castle' for its distinctive tower.

Local favourite: Coffee Jam, great food and amazing drinks, a must-visit for brunch.



→ Bascule Bridge

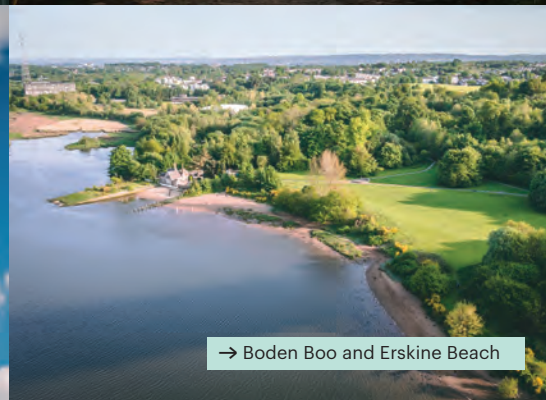


→ Renfrew Town Hall



© Will Scott

→ Newshott Nature Reserve



→ Boden Boo and Erskine Beach

Bridge of Weir

Surrounded by rolling countryside, this is one of the most desirable villages in Renfrewshire—and a lovely place to visit thanks to its cycle links, great restaurants and friendly pubs.

Known for: Being the home of Bridge of Weir Leather, an internationally-award-winning company producing luxury automotive leather.

Local favourite: Bunty's General Store & Delicatessen, speciality food, sandwiches, drinks and hampers.



→ River Gryffe



→ Main Street, Bridge of Weir

Erskine

With its location as a gateway to Loch Lomond and the Scottish Highlands, Erskine is a great place to stay.

Known for: The Grade A Listed Erskine Bridge. With a span of 1,321m and a max height of 45m, at the time of building (1971) it was the longest bridge of its type in the world.

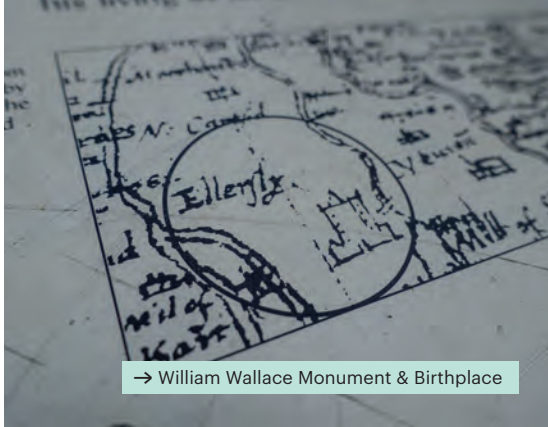
Local favourite: Walking along the Clyde waterfront, through the Newshott Nature Reserve and on to Boden Boo Woodlands. Great views down the river and of the bridge.

Elderslie

One of Renfrewshire's most historic villages, Elderslie's story is woven into Scottish history.

Known for: Elderslie is famous as the birthplace of Sir William Wallace (1274-1305) who defeated an English army at the Battle of Stirling Bridge.

Local favourite: Elderslie Butchers have some of the best burgers in the Clyde Valley.



→ William Wallace Monument & Birthplace



→ William Wallace Monument Gardens



→ Houston & Killellan Kirk



→ Great pubs!

Houston

Surrounded by rolling hills and peaceful countryside, this small village packs a big punch.

Known for: Great pubs and beautiful walking.

Local favourite: The Houston Inn and the Fox and Hounds pubs. Hard to choose between them, but the highlight is when they join forces for the annual Beer and Music Festival in late May.



→ Inchinnan Parish Church



→ India of Inchinnan

Bishopton

This is one Renfrewshire's most desirable villages to live. Bishopton's location is perfect thanks to its road link to the M8, and a direct train line into Glasgow.

Known for: Bishy-day, the village's annual gala day and celebration. Featuring live acts, games and local food, this summer festival is the highlight of the village calendar.

Local favourite: Palomino's restaurant and cocktail bar within Ingleston Estate & Country Club. Stylish dining and great drinks in a beautiful setting.

Inchinnan

A perfectly formed village, Inchinnan is full of surprises. Inchinnan Parish Church is home to a series of carved stones, dated from around 900-1100AD.

Known for: The stunning Art Deco India of Inchinnan. Once the home of India Tyres, the building is an iconic local landmark.

Local favourite: Teucheen Wood, a community owned woodland and a perfect spot for some peaceful time exploring nature.



→ Bishopton



→ Ingleston Estate and Country Club



→ RSPB Lochwinnoch Boardwalk



→ Castle Semple Collegiate Church

Lochwinnoch

A popular village with a vibrant events scene and world-class landscapes. Home to Renfrewshire's largest loch, the village is perfect for outdoor activities.

Known for: RSPB Lochwinnoch Nature Reserve. You'll find a wide range of wildlife, knowledgeable staff and brand-new boardwalk—taking you right out into the loch.

Local favourite: Parkhill Woods sculpture trail, a perfect spot for getting into nature.

Langbank

A picturesque village with panoramic views of the River Clyde. Thanks to its train station and the M8 motorway, it's well connected and easy to explore.

Known for: Award winning restaurant Coast. With a stunning menu, including fine carvery meats, and views stretching across to mountains, it's a must visit.

Local favourite: Finlaystone Country Estate. Home of the Chief of the Clan MacMillan, it has over 140 acres of imaginative playgrounds, woodlands and picnic areas for you to explore.



→ Langbank



→ Finlaystone Country Estate

Howwood

This perfectly formed village is a popular place to live, thanks to its beautiful surroundings, easy access into nature and great travel links.

Known for: The luxury Bowfield Hotel and Country Club which offers delicious food and drink, top class weddings, holidays and spa days.

Local favourite: The Semple Trail, an 8 mile circular walking trail, featuring vast views and peaceful woodlands. It's a car-free adventure linking Howwood to Lochwinnoch.



→ Howwood Woods



→ Kenmure Hill Temple

Kilbarchan

A beautiful traditional weaving village, Kilbarchan has retained a lot of its heritage and charm.

Known for: The Weaver's Cottage. Run by the National Trust for Scotland, the hands-on museum is a vivid recreation of what life was like as a weaver 200 years ago.

Local favourite: Lilies Day is held on the first Saturday in June every year. Hundreds of people come to watch the parade and join in the festivities.



→ Weaver's Cottage



→ Shuttle Street, Kilbarchan, 1904

© Renfrewshire Heritage Centre



→ Rootes Car Plant



→ Linwood Moss Community Woodland

Linwood

This village has something for everyone—retail park, cinema, softplay, swimming and great places to get outdoors.

Known for: Once being home to the Rootes Car Plant, who manufactured the Hillman Imp—a revolutionary car.

Local favourite: On-X Linwood, a fantastic spot for swimming and sports. The centre is surrounded by Linwood Moss Community Woodland, full of accessible trails. Plus for indoor fun, the Big Adventure soft play centre.



Getting here

By Train

Train stations in Renfrewshire are:

- Paisley Gilmour Street
- Paisley Canal
- Paisley St James
- Hawkhead (Paisley)
- Johnstone
- Milliken Park (Johnstone)
- Howwood
- Lochwinnoch
- Bishopton

The journey time from Glasgow Central to Paisley Gilmour Street is less than 15 minutes.

By car

Paisley town centre is a 12-minute drive from Glasgow city centre. The M8 motorway travels through Renfrewshire on its Greenock / Glasgow / Edinburgh route. The Erskine Bridge (use M8 Junction 30) is your gateway to cross the river Clyde and explore the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

By bus

Buses in Renfrewshire are run by McGills and First Bus.

By bike

Renfrewshire is great for cycling, thanks to the National Cycle Network Routes 7 and 75.



Wandering down cobbled wynds, up hidden stairs, going in the green-roofed abbey & finding the tomb of Marjorie Bruce—what a revelation. #Paisleyis rich with history... why do we not shout about this place more? Why don't we tell Paisley's story to the world?

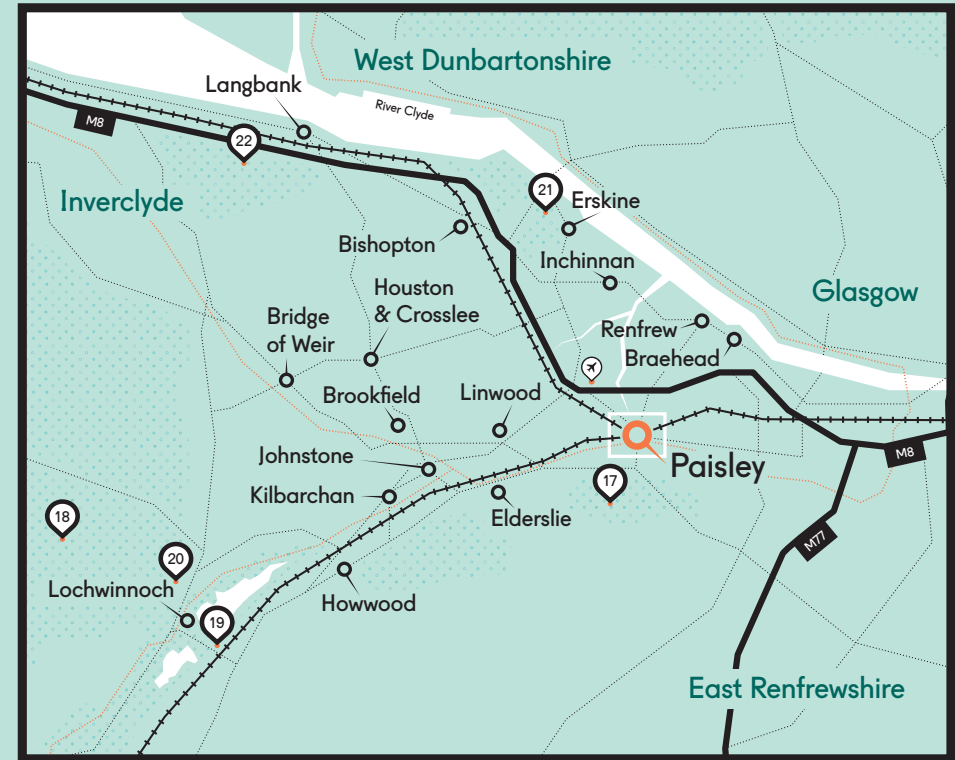
Karen Campbell
Author



Explore Renfrewshire



Our towns, villages and outdoors spaces have their own unique offering. With a fascinating history and heritage, our area is worth exploring.



Get outside

- 17 Gleniffer Braes
- 18 Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park
- 19 RSPB Lochwinnoch
- 20 Castle Sempole Country Park
- 21 Boden Boo
- 22 Finlaystone Country Estate

Discover Paisley

Don't forget to tag @paisley.is in your photos on instagram.

1 Coats Paisley

This majestic building has been part of the Paisley skyline for over 120 years. The stunning crown-shaped steeple rises 200ft above the ground.

2 Paisley Museum

Currently undergoing a £42m transformation project to create a world-class visitor destination showcasing Paisley's people, stories and Pattern.

3 Coats Observatory

Scotland's oldest public observatory is currently being renovated as part of the Paisley Museum transformation.

4 Oakshaw Trinity Church

Legend has it that after a stonemason fell to his death, workmates carved the outline of spectacles and handkerchief into the cobbles as a tribute.

5 Paisley: The Secret Collection

The first publicly-accessible museum store on a UK high street contains thousands of objects telling the story of Paisley's history.

6 Paisley Town Hall

Built in 1873 in memory of George Clark of the famous threadmaking family. This magnificent building is much-loved by Paisley people and has just undergone major internal refurbishment.

7 Paisley Abbey

The jewel in Paisley's crown. Admire the stonework of the rare 10th Century Barochan Cross and the beauty of the stained glass. On the outside, see if you can spot the Alien inspired gargoyle.

8 St Mirin's Cathedral

This spectacular building became a cathedral in 1948. Named for the patron saint of Paisley, it is the mother church of the diocese of the town.

9 Paisley Thread Mill Museum

Explore the social and industrial history of the Paisley thread mills. Displays feature machinery, photographs, product samples and sewing artefacts.

The Thread Mill Museum is located inside Mile End Mill. Built in 1897, it is one of Scotland's finest surviving mill buildings.

10 Anchor Mill

This magnificent building is one of the most photographed in Paisley. A 21st Century restoration project made it a fantastic place to live.

11 St Matthew's Church

Built in 1901, this stunning Building of National Importance has been called 'the most significant Art Nouveau church in Europe'.

12 Brown's Lane

This narrow, cobbled lane contains a few surprises! Home to independent business. Plus a series of fantastic murals dedicated to music legends Paolo Nutini and Gerry Rafferty, mill girl Ellen Farmer and St Mirren's Scottish Cup-winning team of 1987.

13 Russell Institute

This Art Deco building was donated in 1927 by Miss Agnes Russell to the women and children of Paisley. The ornate statues on the exterior depict some of the ailments once treated inside.

14 Sma' Shot Cottages

See how people lived during two distinct periods in Paisley's weaving history. The complex shows how life was for weavers 250 years ago and also the 19th Century residence of a mill foreman.

15 Paisley Arts Centre

A former church with a deep history. John Witherspoon was minister from 1758-68 before becoming one of the founding fathers of the United States of America.

16 Fountain Gardens

Paisley's oldest public park is home to the Grand Fountain—a spectacular cast-iron fountain with statues of herons, dolphins and walruses! Plus one of the finest statues of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns.

Please check www.paisley.is for the latest information on opening times and contact details.

